

Appendix II, National Marine Mammal Tissue Bank Access Policy

The goal of the National Marine Mammal Tissue Bank (NMMTB) is to maintain quality controlled marine mammal tissues to permit retrospective analyses for the purpose of, determining environmental trends, and conducting analyses using new and innovative analytical techniques.

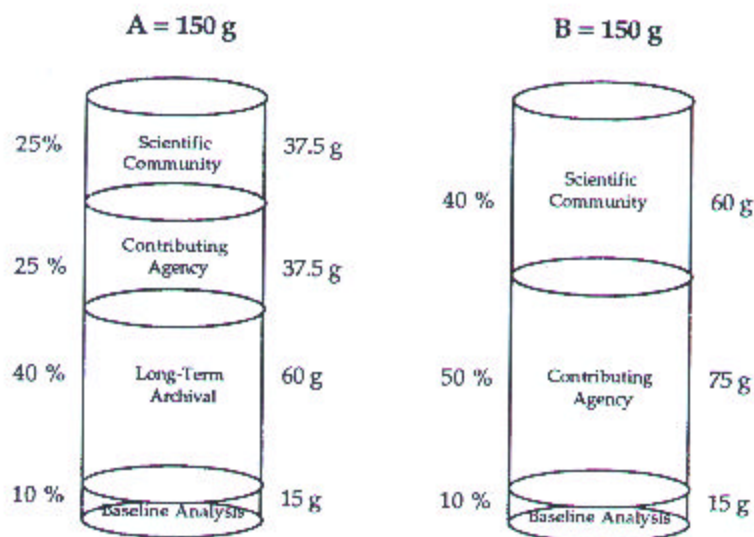
The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Office of Protected Resources (PR) has the responsibility for managing the NMMTB. NMMTB tissues are banked in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) National Biomonitoring Specimen Bank (NI3SB) located in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Duplicate samples (denoted A and B) of ~150 g for each tissue specimen are banked in the NMMTB. Subsamples of the “B” samples can be homogenized and aliquoted into approximately 20 subsamples of 6-8 g each which are then available for scientific research. The “A” samples will remain as bulk samples and will only be homogenized after all portions from the “B” sample are depleted and sufficient justification exists to homogenize the remaining material. Thus, 50% of each specimen is available to the scientific community for research and scientific evaluations consistent with the goals of the NMMTB program and 50% is intended for long-term storage as a more permanent archive for posterity.

The homogenized subsamples of “B” samples are divided into three categories. Category 1 constitutes 40% of the homogenized material and is available to the scientific community for research that is consistent with the goals of the NMMTB. Formal requests for access to these tissues must be made as described below. Category 2 consists of 50% of the homogenized material and is reserved for use by the contributing agencies. A procedure for access to these samples will be established by the contributing agencies and the NMMTB. Category 3 is the remaining 10% of the homogenized material which is reserved to perform baseline analyses of the specimens to monitor storage stability, to compare with analyses from real-time monitoring programs and to conduct research investigations within the NMMTB program.

If the “A” sample is eventually homogenized, the subsamples are divided into the following four categories. Category 1 consists of 25% of the material and is available to the scientific community as described above. Category 2 consists of 25% of the material and is reserved for use by the contributing agencies. Category 3 consists of 10% of the material for use within the NMMTB program as described above. Category 4 is the remaining 40% which is intended as a permanent archive that will not be utilized unless high priority needs exist; the determination of this need will be made by an advisory committee to the NMMTB. Combining the “A” and “B” samples, the total percentage sample allocations are as follows: Category 1 (32.5%), Category 2 (37.5%), Category 3 (10%), and Category 4 = (20%). For clarification, the relative amounts of each category are illustrated in the following figure.

Formal requests for banked tissues in Category I must be submitted to the Director of the NMFS Office of Protected Resources. The request will be reviewed by an informal review committee consisting of no less than three individuals, who are members of the NMMTB’s Team of Scientists. The review committee will be convened by the Director and shall have representation from both the government and academic/private sector. At least one member of the review committee shall be an expert in the field that is related to the proposed research activity. The Director will make the final decision based on the advice provided by the review committee.



Requests for samples from the NMMTB must include a clear and concise statement of the proposed work and be consistent with the goals of the NMMTB. The following specific information should be included in the request for samples:

1. Name of principal investigator and affiliated research or academic organization,
2. Specific tissue sample and quantity desired,
3. Explanation of proposed research to be conducted,
4. Justification for use of banked tissue,
5. Research facility where analyses will be conducted,
6. Analytical quality control procedures to be used,
7. Estimated completion of research, and schedule/date of subsequent reports,
8. Agreement that all results/findings be reported to the NMMTB,
9. Agreement that credit and acknowledgement will be given to NOAA/NMFS and the NMMTB for use of banked tissues.

Of particular importance in determining whether a sample request will be granted is the justification that samples from the NMMTB are required to accomplish the research and that suitable samples to accomplish the goals of the proposed research could not be obtained from other sources. The NMMTB is not intended to be used as a readily accessible source of marine mammal tissue for any researcher needing specimens, but only for research requiring banked samples from the past.

An informal review process will also be set-up for banked tissues withdrawn from Category 2; however, the final decision on Category 2 samples will be made by the contributing agency. Use of Category 3 tissues will be determined by NMFS and NIST. Category 4 tissues cannot be withdrawn until all tissues from the other categories have been depleted. When Category 4 tissues are withdrawn, the same review process will be followed as described for Category 1 tissues with the final determination made by the Director.

Director,
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